our fourfooted friends

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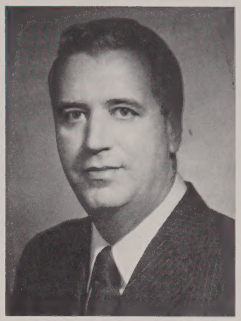
Cover:
Molly Springer and her friends, *Dandy* and *Bearhug* on a stroll through the Boston Public Garden. *Photo by Bob Howard.*

This issue was designed by Elizabeth Resnick.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Monitoring the Crane's Deer Dilemma



Arthur G. Slade
President

In light of our involvement as an advisor-observer during the recent removal of deer at the Crane's Reservation properties, I would like to clarify our position.

First, we agreed that the preponderance of evidence supports the fact that there is a serious overpopulation of deer on the Reservation. This has resulted in severe overbrowsing to the point that there is an insufficient supply of food to sustain the existing population and a substantial number of deer are debilitated, unhealthy and faced with starvation. As I stated last Fall, we consider starvation to be an inhumane death and thus not an acceptable means of reducing the herd population.

Last year, the League recommended to The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) a comprehensive feeding, sterilization and humane euthanasia program be established for herd reduction which would provide a truly humane solution to this complex situation. We still strongly support this position as we are convinced it offers the best and most humane resolution for a permanent answer to the overpopulation in the years ahead.

However, our recommendations notwithstanding, TTOR decided to go forward with the marksman portion of their program. This is a matter over which we had no control or influence. Faced with this reality, we asked the Trustees to allow us to have a veterinary observer present during the removal of the deer. We also asked that a League veterinarian be permitted to advise TTOR on appropriate criteria to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy deer and that our veterinarian be given access to necropsy results to make every effort possible to insure the deer are removed humanely and put to the least amount of stress.

Our participation as an observer-advisor in no way constituted a joint program with TTOR nor should it be construed or represented as an endorsement of their program. As stated before, our position is at variance with a number of major aspects of their deer management program, but we felt that our role as an advisor-observer was the only way we could serve to guard the welfare of these creatures at this time and prevent unnecessary stress and suffering. The MSPCA shared these concerns and the Advisor-Observer program was a joint effort with them.

It should be completely understood that we remain unalterably opposed to any type of public hunt in the future. It is our mission to press as strong as humanly possible to convince TTOR of the wisdom of our initial position for the long range management of these deer. The paramount purpose of our plan will be a humane approach which will result in a permanent answer to the overpopulation problem.

Answering The Call of The Wild

The advances of civilization, particularly the direct and indirect products of human technology – such as the automobile or environmental pollution – inevitably take their toll on area wildlife.

Each spring in New England, for example, migrating birds are injured in accidents or encounters with environmental pollution and baby animals are orphaned when their parents are killed or injured by reckless drivers. Hundreds of such wildlife, including birds, mammals and reptiles have been able to benefit from another aspect of modern technology – advanced medical science – since the opening in 1983 of the *Wildlife Clinic at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine* in Grafton, Mass.

Continued on the next page...

Illustration: Virginia Peck

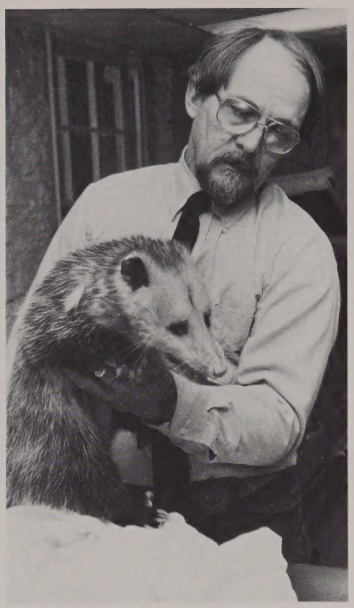
Diseased or injured wild animals and birds—all indigenous to the New England area—are brought to the Wildlife Clinic from throughout Massachusetts. While receiving the best care that modern medicine can offer, they also serve as teaching aids for senior veterinary students who do a one or two week rotation at the clinic.

Located on the 634-acre campus, the Wildlife Clinic has become the regional center for the treatment of injured and diseased wildlife, and the Northeast's official center for endangered species. In addition to serving as a primary care unit for indigenous wildlife, the clinic is also designed to teach veterinary students the special hands-on skills needed to treat members of wild species.

"The program is also designed to impart an understanding and respect for the habits of wild animals and the environmental conditions in which they survive," according to Dr. Charles J. Sedgwick, Clinic Director and Associate Professor of Wildlife and Zoological Animal Medicine at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Sedgwick was formerly Assistant Professor of Medicine and campus veterinarian at the University of California at Davis. He has also been the veterinarian for both the San Diego and Los Angeles Zoos.

The Wildlife Clinic facilities include an examination unit, a prep and surgical area, simple diagnostic laboratory and a mobile anesthetic machine. Specialists in the fields of radiology, surgery, medicine, pathology, diagnostic testing and pharmacology are immediately available to the clinic through the Tufts Hospitals for Large and Small Animals. Outdoors, there are large cages designed with natural environments for the reacclimation of recuperating birds and animals.



Dr. Charles J. Sedgwick with his patient, an opossum with a broken pelvis.

Among Dr. Sedgwick's recent patients were a turtle that was run over by a car, an opossum whose encounter with an automobile left it with a broken pelvis, and a great horned owl that was shot in the wing. The turtle's broken shell was repaired with fiberglass and the creature was able to be released. When **Our Four-footed Friends** visited the clinic, the opossum was resting in the intensive care unit in the clinic basement, still groggy from being anesthetized for a series of x-rays to determine the extent of its injuries. Outdoors, the great horned owl—the largest and most dangerous of the owl family—blinked and clacked threateningly at visitors as it recuperated in a spacious cage. Its broken wing—typical of injuries that occur in the fall hunting season—has been repaired with a Teflon rod, and it will soon begin rehabilitation therapy in preparation for its release.

Clinic manager Alison Haskell explains that it is critical to get wild creatures back in good physical shape before releasing them. "Just as people get weak if they are sick in bed for a few weeks, animals, and especially birds, lose their strength and ability to cope with nature." There are people throughout the area who are specially trained and licensed to rehabilitate birds of prey, like the owl, a program that often involves retraining the bird to fly. An initial phase of rehabilitation is the patient's move from indoors to out, which is needed to readjust the animal to normal cycles of light and darkness as well as outdoor temperatures.

After an animal or bird has been restored to health and has full functioning ability, it is critical that it be released as close as possible to the spot where it was found. "Animals 'imprint' to a geographic site, especially birds which have the most sensitive eyesight of all animals," Dr. Sedgwick notes. "Young hawks, for example, will return to the same approximate site where they were born, in order to build their own nests and raise their young."

In summing up the purposes of the Wildlife Clinic, Dr. Sedgwick states: "We believe that wildlife is important to the quality of our existence...Wise use of our resources requires knowledge of how animals and populations function, of how animals use their environment, interact with each other, reproduce and die. There are many ways that man can help to ensure the wise use of our natural resources...the Wildlife Clinic is one small but important contribution."

On the operating table at the Wildlife Clinic is a great horned owl shot in the wing.

1984 ANNUAL REPORT

During the League's 85th year of humane service, 16,646 members helped provide assistance to 58,797 animals. These concerned benefactors included 2,974 new members who joined the League during the past year. All of those who work to further the League's humane goals are deeply grateful for the care exhibited by these dedicated friends, both old and new.

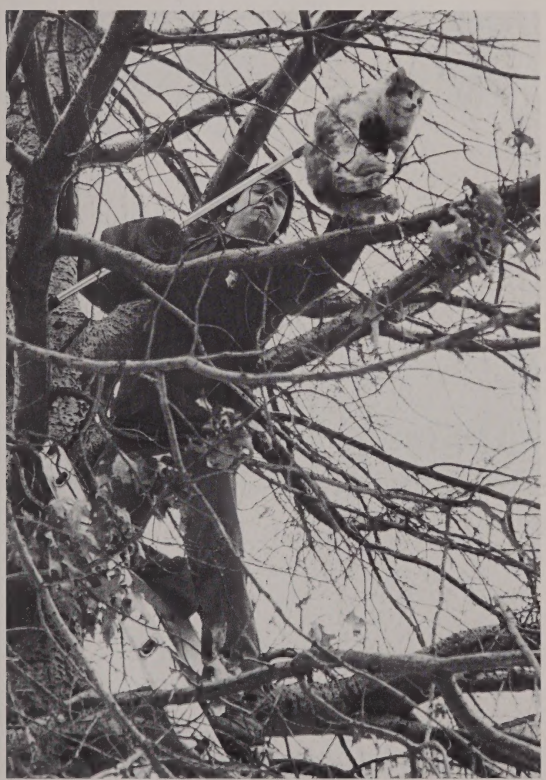
Continued on the next page...

Illustration: Marion Eldridge

The past year was also one of growth and renewal in terms of physical facilities and resources for animal shelter and services. In spring 1984, extensive renovations were begun at the shelter at the League's Boston headquarters. When the refurbished facility was reopened in the fall, including the newly-designated Robert W. Marks Pet Adoption Center, the capacity for housing animals for adoption had been doubled, and several new features had been added, including an exotic animal room.

Plans were also announced in the summer for a new animal adoption shelter to be opened in Dedham, to serve residents of the Dedham and South Shore areas. To be named The Safford Memorial Shelter, in memory of Ruth Appleton Perkins Safford and her husband, Captain Laurance Frye Safford, U.S.N., the new facility will be located on the League's 22-acre site on Pine Street which is also the location of the Pine Ridge Cemetery for Small Animals, operated by the League since 1907. The shelter is expected to open this fall.

During renovation of the Boston shelter, animals awaiting adoption were housed in a temporary shelter created in the League's auditorium. Despite this curtailment of adoption space, the League still succeeded in placing 1,801 dogs, 2,230 cats and 245 miscellaneous animals in new homes during 1984, a total of 4,276 adoptions. The total number of lost pets returned to their owners was 1,681, an increase of 17 percent over the previous year. This included 1,330 dogs and 351 cats.



On a rescue mission, Bob Walsh, the League's shelter manager.

Julie Sword, the League's adoption coordinator, cuddling her charges.

Ambulance and rescue service at the League continued at a peak activity level. Last year agents in Boston alone responded to calls involving 9,000 animals. Outpatient visits to the League's small animal clinic at Boston headquarters continued to increase, totaling 8,644 clinic visits in 1984. Animal welfare issues were a major concern in 1984, with the League taking a leadership role in the development of regulations for the inspection of research facilities in the Commonwealth, as called for by the new law that repealed the Pound Seizure Law. The health and safety of animals raised and used for commercial purposes was also actively promoted through the League's inspection and investigation efforts. A total of 839 inspections and investigations were made to locations housing over 22,400 animals. These locations included pet shops, parks, stables, guard dog establishments, zoos and kennels.

Photo: Arthur Pollock

Over 400 representatives of animal welfare groups around the globe gathered in Boston in May for the World Congress on Animal Protection to share ideas and expertise. League staff members participated in this program and later contributed to local exchange of communications as cosponsor of the Second Annual New England Conference on Animals and Society held in November at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine.

In October, fellow staff members and friends gathered to honor Earl E. Wentzel, vice president and assistant secretary of the League, who retired after 38 years of service. Mr. Wentzel was presented with the League's highest honor, the Anna Harris Smith Award, in recognition of his devoted service and in appreciation "for his leadership, wisdom, and dedication to the humane movement and its ideals."

Mr. W. Whitney Tileston of Chatham, with Brandy adopted through the "Pets For People" program.

A major effort to enhance the lives of older citizens through pet ownership was initiated in the fall with the official launching of the Pets for People Program. Made possible by the Purina Pets for People Fund, the adoption program provides pets for people over the age of 60 at no cost, as well as free spaying and neutering, plus veterinary examination, shots, collar and leash, dishes and a supply of pet food.

Fostering an appreciation for animals among people of all ages continues to be a major goal of the League, and the focus of its extensive education and information programs. To introduce youngsters to animals and encourage the development of humane and caring attitudes, the League operates the Animal Friends Summer School at Cataumet, where the curriculum centers on care and concern; the Animal Friends Club and newsletter; and humane education programs in public and private schools throughout the year.

Other educational activities include publication of **Our Fourfooted Friends,** seminars, tours, pet care literature and animal-related articles and features for print and broadcast media, all directed at attaining League founder Anna Harris Smith's timeless goal: to make the world a better place for pets and people.

One of the League's modern ambulances.

PETS FOR PEOPLE

An Upbeat Update

"You always have somebody to talk to and somebody who cares about you," says Margaret Hafferty of East Harwich about her new pet "Misha," a five-year-old collie.

"Jackie's loads of fun and we love her—it's also good exercise for us to walk her," reports Elvira Richardson of Brewster.

"He was just waiting for me," is how Mary Hennessey of Lynn expresses her feelings for six-month-old "Sabrina," a mutt of mixed boxer-terrier ancestry.

These are just three of the more than fifty men and women who have already found new companions through the League's Pets for People Program launched just a few months ago. Funded by the Ralston Purina Company's Pets for People Fund, the program is designed to help senior citizens adopt pets free of charge, and also furnish such necessities as spaying and neutering, shots, food and water dishes, and a supply of pet food—all at no cost.

Response to the program has been enthusiastic, both at League headquarters and at branches in Salem and Brewster. "We're definitely seeing more elderly persons visit here because of the program," according to Thom White, manager of the Cape Cod Branch at Brewster.

The program was introduced officially to Boston area senior citizens at an announcement ceremony at City Hall. Those attending, including the first person to take advantage of the program, Charles Budreau of Winthrop with his mixed-terrier "Smudgy," heard Professor Elizabeth Lawrence of Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, cite some of the following benefits of pet companionship:

- Pets help seniors feel needed, thereby promoting self-esteem.
- Pets encourage greater activity by seniors due to the pets' needs.
- Pets keep seniors' minds off themselves.
- According to preliminary studies, pets help to lower blood pressure and increase the survival rate of persons with heart disease.
- Pets encourage seniors to take better care of themselves, by providing proper care for the pet.

What can a child do to help?

Since the first step to helping our animal friends is learning about and understanding their needs and special problems, we feel that this process should begin at an early age.

The Animal Friends Club has been teaching elementary school aged children about animals, pet care and related topics for many years through the Animal Friends Newsletter (previously Paws and Claws). Included in this publication are articles on major topics such as animal welfare, nature and the environment, letters to Hector the Inspector and Wisely Owl, as well as activities and literary or artistic contributions from young readers.

A membership to the **Animal Friends Club** is a perfect gift for a child, elementary school teacher or librarian or an office waiting area where children may be present. To join, simply fill out and send in the form. The person joining the Club will receive a colorful poster, a membership card and 6 fun-filled and informative Animal Friends Club Newsletters per year.

For more information contact Annette French in the Education Department, 426-9170.

Animal Friends Club
Animal Rescue League of Boston
Box 265
Boston, Massachusetts 02117

Enclosed is a $3.00 membership for:

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip_____

Age _____ Grade _____

PETS IN THE PICTURE

Here's **"Porky,"** *who was adopted from the League in 1973 at the age of seven months by* **Pauline Rosen** *of Arlington. An indoor cat, "she is a very good little girl and enjoys her comfort as you can see," her owner writes.*

Leslie Arnold *of Randolph would like to share this picture of her two cats* **"Socks"** *and* **Muffin." "Socks"** *(at left) was adopted at the Animal Rescue League.*

"Rudolph," *owned by* **Mrs. Nancy Recupero** *of Medford, was one of a set of quintuplet puppies born seven years ago last Christmas. "Rudolph" loves to be in pictures, according to Mrs. Recupero, especially on his holiday birthday. "When Christmas morning comes we allow him to open his presents and look in his stocking to see what Santa has brought."*

Violet Hardenbrook *of West Bridgewater sends this photo of her pet of eleven years who died recently. "The loss is great, and I would like very much to see my cat* **"Freddie"** *in your magazine," she writes.*

William A. Julien *of South Chatham adopted* **"Sandy"** *from the League's Brewster shelter. "After sixty years of dogs, some of mixed origins and two pedigreed, I cannot express our feelings for Sandy adequately," he writes. "Sandy follows me everywhere and comes at a whistle. Her affection knows no limits. And, of course, she loves everyone she meets."*

Ann Janney *of Hyannis sends along this photo of two-year-old* **"Sam"** *enjoying a moment of tranquility on a Cape Cod beach.*

Bertha A. Rees *of South Boston writes that she enjoys "Our Fourfooted Friends" and submits this photo of her Siamese cat* **"Kami"** *who is obviously a well-trained house cat!*

"To celebrate **Joli***'s fifteenth birthday, my class and I have submitted his picture for Our Fourfooted Friends to print. Joli has been friend and companion since March, 1969," writes* **Sandra Klein,** *a sixth grade teacher at the Prattville School in Chelsea.*

NEWSFRONT
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

Legislative Update

The 1984 Massachusetts legislative session was noted more for political changes than for the quantity of significant legislation that was produced. Most proposed pieces of legislation terminated in committee and never approached possible passage on the floor. By far the most significant piece of legislation we saw passed last session was an amendment to Chapter 272, Section 77, the cruelty to animals statute.

The bill was filed by Senator Amick (D-Bedford) on behalf of the Animal Rescue League of Boston and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. It added the term 'sanitary environment' and now insures that animals live in a clean and healthy environment.

It is clearly an important addition to the cruelty law. An animal living in an unfit environment may not initially show disease. However, in time, these conditions present a serious threat to both the health of the animal and the health of the general public. There are many zoonotic diseases that can be transmitted from animals to people which are propagated from unsanitary conditions.

The League's special police officers, empowered under Chapter 147, Section 10 to investigate suffering and cruelty can now be more thorough in the performance of their duties.

We hope the 1985 legislative session brings other important changes to animal welfare issues in the Commonwealth. Important pieces of legislation we will be working on prohibiting the use of wild animals for attracting trade, regulations pertaining to the keeping of pets in elderly and handicapped public housing, and revising and updating the Commonwealth's animal control laws (licensing, education, enforcement, spay/neuter).

We anticipate a fruitful legislative year, working with many new committee chairpersons, while achieving the goals of the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

New National Network For Lost Pets

A computer aided national network designed to reunite lost pets with their owners has been established by Alpo Petfoods. The Alpo National Pet Locators Network is a membership organization that provides pet owners with a special pet locator name tag. The tag features a computerized coded membership number and a national toll-free phone number for the pet owner's privacy and security. When informed that a pet is lost, the network staff members contact animal shelters throughout the area where the animal was lost. The service operates twenty-four hours a day. Further information can be obtained by contacting Alpo Pet Locators Network, P.O. Box 942, Valley Forge, Pa. 19482-0942.

Fewer Dogs Or Fatter Cats?

Either cat ownership is on the rise, or else finicky felines are developing bigger appetites. A recent analysis of pet food sales reported in the **New York Times** indicated that cat food sales have been gaining at a rate of five percent a year, compared to dog food sales which have been rising by two or three percent a year. According to the report, which was issued by Donaldson, Lafkin & Jenrette, pet foods taken together now command more supermarket shelf space than any other food category.

New Additions To League Staff

Edward Powers, known to youngsters at the Animal Friends Summer School in Cataumet as "Farmer Ed," and Carol McCarthy, also a former staff member at the Summer School, have both joined the League staff as law enforcement inspectors. A graduate of the University of New Hampshire with a degree in animal science, Mr. Powers had taught care of farm animals at the Summer School and will be a specialist in horse stable inspection and regulation. Ms. McCarthy, a 1984 graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, also with a degree in animal science, will serve as an animal research facility inspector.

Vaccine Now Available To Prevent Leukemia In Cats

A new vaccine developed by Norden Laboratories to protect cats against feline leukemia is the first vaccine against any cancer in mammals. The vaccine is thought to be 80 percent effective in protecting cats from the feline leukemia virus which is transmitted among cats through saliva and possibly urine. While many cats will fight off the virus, about 50 percent will develop either immune deficiencies or leukemia. The virus is not transmitted from cats to humans. The new vaccine is likely to be most useful for those cats that are likely to come in contact with other cats, since indoor pets have a very low risk of exposure to the virus.

Bazaar-Auction Aids League Efforts

Friends of the Animal Rescue League of Boston organized a Bazaar and Auction in December, held at the Winthrop School in Hamilton to raise funds for animal welfare. The first such event for the League ever held in the North Shore area, the bazaar was a huge success. Co-chairmen of the event were League directors Mrs. Kenneth W. Gregg and Mrs. William Hoyt.

New Animal Welfare Programs In Costa Rica

The World Society for the Protection of Animals, which recently opened an office in San Jose, Costa Rica, has opened an animal shelter in that city, as well as a large rehabilitation center for seized birds and other wildlife. "WSPA does not usually operate animal shelters," explains John C. Walsh, western hemisphere regional director. "However, there are no animal shelters here, nor even a municipal dog pound, and before we could begin our programs for this area, we needed a shelter where unwanted and injured animals could be cared for. The need has been so great that each kennel has been filled as fast as the cement dried."

WSPA also works very closely with the government wildlife department, which had previously been unable to enforce the laws prohibiting sale of wildlife because there was nowhere to put the seized birds and animals. At WSPA's new rehabilitation center, and a second center in Palo Verde National Park for which WSPA provided the construction materials, all forms of wildlife are cared for and gradually reintroduced into their wild habitat.

Photo: Bill Byrne

Young Coyote A Guest At League

A young coyote, thought to be about a year old, was captured recently in Milton by a local police officer who contacted agents from the League. Eastern coyotes have been known to venture into populated areas, but it is rare to find one east of Worcester. At first, however, it was assumed that the pup was a member of this species. The animal was later identified, however, as a western coyote, a stranger to this area that presumably had been kept as a pet. The League brought the animal to Boston headquarters but later transferred it to the Wildlife Clinic at Tufts University School of VeterinaryMedicine (see story on page 4) for examination. The coyote was subsequently found to have an infection and later died.

Animals Suffer In India Gas Leak Disaster

Over 1,000 animals died in the recent gas disaster at Bhopal, India, and another 7,300 have been affected and are undergoing treatment, according to a report from the World Society for the Protection of Animals. Many abortions occurred within a week of the gas leak, and milk production from affected cows dropped in half or totally stopped. The gas leak did not affect many poultry, and had no effect whatsoever on the fly and mosquito population, the reason for which is currently under study.

At The Movies

Two recently released movies have been rated as "Believed Acceptable" by The American Humane Association, and one has been rated "Acceptable":

Believed Acceptable:

Ladyhawke, a Warner Brothers production

Starman, a Columbia Picture

(This category means that the Association was not on location to monitor animal action, but after screening or script review, American Humane representatives concluded that the film producer complied with Association standards and intentions.)

Acceptable:

Sylvester, a Columbia Picture

(An Acceptable rating indicates that American Humane was on location to monitor animal action and to ensure humane treatment. Scenes appearing to endanger animals are simulated.)

If you love animals, this is the camp for you!

Animal Friends Summer Day Camp, located in North Falmouth on Cape Cod, is a unique camp for boys and girls who like animals and crafts. Activities include:

Farm Animals, Horses, Wildlife, Woodworking, Nature Photography, Pet Care, Ceramics, Basketry, Ocean Ecology, Dog Obedience Training, Dramatics, Group Adventures, Sports, Special Events and more!

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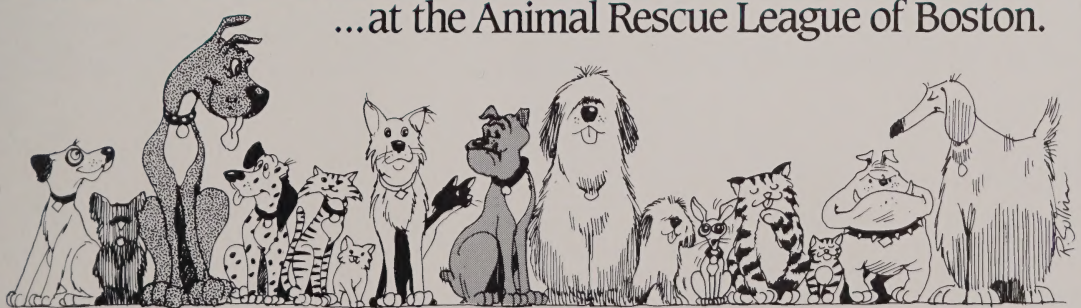
Love comes in all colors and sizes...

...at the Animal Rescue League of Boston.



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Animal Rescue League of Boston
A Non-Profit Humane Society Helping Animals Since 1899.

The President and Board of Directors
Cordially invite you to attend our

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 17, 1985
2:30 p.m.
League Headquarters
Corner of Arlington & Tremont Streets
Boston, Massachusetts

Program

Annual Meeting
Election of Directors
Special Guest Speaker

Animal Rescue League of Boston

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
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